

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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DEPT PLEASE PASS OPEC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PFOR VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING OF OPEC PETROLEUM WORKERS

REF: CARACAS 11257

1. PLANS FOR A CARACAS MEETING OF ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EX-
PORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) PETROLEUM WORKERS, REPORTED REFTEL,
HAVE CRYSTALIZED. THE "CONGRESS" WILL BE HOSTED BY THE VENE-
ZUELAN PETROLEUM WORKERS FEDERATION (FEDEPETROL). IT IS SCHEDULED
TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 21 - APRIL 24, 1975. A SIX-POINT AGENDA HAS
BEEN PROPOSED BY FEDEPETROL: (I) NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY;
(II) STRENGTHENING OPEC BY EXPRESSING WORKER SUPPORT, AND
INSISTING ON WORKER PARTICIPATION; (III) PROMOTING EQUAL
"ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL" CONDITIONS FOR THE WORKERS IN
ALL OPEC COUNTRIES THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND SOCIAL AND
LABOR LEGISLATION; (IF) PETROLEUM PRICING, WORLD INFLATION AND
THEIR IMPACT ON WORKERS; (V) DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

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--THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, TO ORGANIZE, TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY,

AND THE APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS; AND, (VI) THE STANCE OF PETROLEUM WORKERS WITH REGARDS TO MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES.

2. NON-OPEC MEMBER MEXICO HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGRESS AS A LATIN AMERICAN PETROLEUM EXPORTER OF GROWING IMPORTANCE AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE PERSONAL TIES FEDEPETROL'S MANUEL PENALVER HAS WITH THE MEXICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

3. FEDEPETROL PRESIDENT CARLOS PINERUA PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO INVITE PERSONALLY WORKERS FROM THOSE NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE.

4. COMMENT: AGENDA ITEMS II, IV AND VI APPEAR TO BE NON-CONTROVERSIAL IN THE OPEC SETTING. AGENDA ITEM I IS A VENEZUELAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE DESIGNED BY FEDEPETROL TO STRENGTHEN RANK AND FILE SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION ANNOUNCED FOR CALENDAR 1975. AGENDA ITEMS III AND V REFLECT THE STRONG DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS OF VENEZUELAN TRADE UNIONISM AND A SINCERE DESIRE TO PROMOTE "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC" TRADE UNIONISM WITHIN OPEC. THEY MAY BE LESS THAN WELCOME TO SOME OPEC MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.
MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OPEC CAPITALS.

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